

PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR DEFINITIVE MAP CASE WORK – scoring examples

Each criterion is scored out of 10. The weighting is a percentage of the score. Final priority score is the sum of the scores plus weightings.

Criterion	Definition	Low score (0-3)	Mid range score (4-7)	High score (8-10)	Weighting
Threat to existing or unrecorded route	Is the route obstructed or threatened with obstruction?	No obstruction, or insignificant obstruction and path available for use.	Minor obstruction of definitive route, unofficial diversion available and no complaints; or lack of recorded status is preventing SCC carrying out repairs or improvements.	Development proposed over path; or path obstructed as a challenge to its use.	0.3
Level of public interest	Is there much public interest?	Single applicant and little other public involvement.	Limited evidence of public usage or interest.	Community led projects or high level of user demand with regular requests from a variety of people.	0
Value for money	Affordability, costs involved or potential savings offered.	High cost of processing order and / or implementing outcome.	Moderate costs involved and no significant liability incurred.	External funding available or enables budget savings elsewhere, for example removes the need for an expensive bridge.	3
Network improvement	Meets Suffolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan objectives.	Offers little or no network improvement.	Moderate network benefit.	Provides a new link; or new bridleway / cycle access.	3
Safety	Are there potential safety benefits?	Offers little or no safety improvement.	Moderate safety improvement.	Significant safety improvement on a priority route, for example provides safe alternative to dangerous road.	0.4
Strength of evidence Modification order	How strong / available is the evidence?	Little or no supporting user evidence and / or documentary evidence.	Moderate amount of evidence available.	Strong supporting evidence or crucial witnesses are elderly.	0
Tests met Public path order	Can legal tests under the Highways Act 1980 be met?	Tests cannot be met or very doubtful.	Tests met.	Tests clearly met.	
Resolves problem other than financial	Will the case resolve a known problem?	No problem or very minor issue.	Identified problem but not causing significant difficulties.	Will resolve an existing problem that cannot be resolved by protection and maintenance.	0
Residential obstruction	Residential obstruction.	No obstruction.	Route recorded through curtilage of property.	Route recorded through several dwellings; or a property sale is affected.	1